

Remarks

Claims 1, 12, 24, 30-33 and 46 stand rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,640,202 to Kondo et al. ("Kondo"). Claims 2-5, 13-17, and 42-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U. S. Patent No. 6,019,286 to Li et al. ("Li") in view of Kondo. Claims 25-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kondo in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,729,546 to Roustaei ("Roustaei"). Claims 6-11 are indicated to be allowed, while claims 18-23, 34-41, and 47 are indicated to be allowable.

In order to expedite allowance, applicants' cancel the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer. It is emphasized that the cancellation of claims 1-5 and 12-47 is without prejudice and disclaimer and is further emphasized that the applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in another application (e.g., a continuing application).

Applicants also add new claims 48-53. New claims 48-53 while new are similar to but broader than claims 18-23. New claims 54-61 while new are similar to but broader than claims 34-41. New claim 62 while new is similar to but broader than claim 47. Applicants also add new claims 63-80. It is believed that the new claims are allowable in that they recite combinations of elements not shown or suggested in the cited prior art.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe all of the claims of the present application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and passage to allowance of the application.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call applicants' representative at the phone number listed below.


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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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